

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A circuit arrangement for operating high-pressure discharge lamps, the circuit arrangement having the following features,

- a voltage converter (S1, S2) for generating an AC voltage,
- a transformer (T1) having a secondary winding (T1b), which is connected to the voltage converter (S1, S2) or is formed as part of the voltage converter (S1, S2),
- a load circuit, which is fed by the secondary winding (T1b) of the transformer (T1) and has terminals for a high-pressure discharge lamp (La) and the ignition voltage output of a pulse ignition apparatus (IZV), which serves the purpose of igniting the gas discharge in the high-pressure discharge lamp (La), said pulse ignition apparatus (IVZ) having an ignition capacitor (C3), a rectifier diode (D3), a resistor (R1), a spark gap (FS) and an ignition transformer (T2) with a primary winding (L2a) and a

secondary winding (L2b), wherein during ignition phase of the high-pressure discharge lamp said ignition capacitor (C3) is charged via said rectifier diode (D3) and said resistor (R1) to the breakthrough voltage of said spark gap (FS), and on breakthrough of said spark gap (FS) the ignition capacitor (C3) is discharged via the primary winding (L2a) of said ignition transformer (T2), and high-voltage ignition pulses are generated in its second winding (L2b) for the purpose of igniting the gas discharge in the high-pressure discharge lamp (La),

wherein ~~characterized in that~~ a series resonant circuit (L3, C4) or a voltage-multiplying cascade circuit or a symmetrical voltage-doubling circuit or the combination of a series resonant circuit with a voltage-multiplying cascade circuit or a symmetrical voltage-doubling circuit is provided for supplying voltage to the pulse ignition apparatus (IZV) during the ignition phase of the high-pressure discharge lamp (La).

2. (Currently amended): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the series resonant circuit (L3, C4) is connected to the secondary winding (T1b) of the transformer (T1) and, ~~when a high pressure discharge lamp~~ said series resonant circuit (L3, C4) is connected, is connected in parallel with the discharge path of the high-pressure discharge lamp (La).

3. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the series resonant circuit is connected on the primary side to the transformer (T1).

4. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 3, characterized in that the resonant inductance of the series resonant circuit is in the form of an autotransformer (L4, L4b), whose secondary winding (L4b) can be connected to the voltage input of a pulse ignition apparatus.

5. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a capacitor (C6) is arranged in the load

circuit, is connected in series with the secondary winding (L2b) of the ignition transformer (T2) of the pulse ignition apparatus (IZV) when the pulse ignition apparatus (IZV) is connected and is dimensioned such that it essentially represents a short circuit for the ignition pulses generated by the pulse ignition apparatus (IZV) and, once the gas discharge in the high-pressure discharge lamp (La) has been ignited, brings about partial compensation of the inductance of the ignition transformer (L2b).

6. (Previously presented): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the capacitor (C6) is formed as part of the series resonant circuit.

7. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the voltage-multiplying cascade circuit is supplied with energy during the ignition phase of the high-pressure discharge lamp (La) from the secondary winding (T1b) of the transformer (T1).

8. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the voltage input of the voltage-multiplying cascade circuit is connected into the voltage converter (S1, S2) on the primary side of the transformer (T1).

9. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the symmetrical voltage-doubling circuit is supplied with energy during the ignition phase of the high-pressure discharge lamp (La) from the secondary winding (T1b) of the transformer (T1).

10. (Original): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the voltage input of the symmetrical voltage-doubling circuit is connected into the voltage converter (S1, S2) on the primary side of the transformer (T1).

11. (Previously presented): The circuit arrangement as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the voltage converter (S1, S2) is in the form of a current-fed push-pull converter.

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12-19. (Cancelled)